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'Night Out' Scheduled For August 1 in BA

The "23rd Annual National Night Out" (NNO), a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), has been scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 1. The Broken Arrow Police Department invites individuals and entire neighborhoods to be a part of their NIGHT OUT 2006 team.

Lisa Ford, the BAPD's Crime Prevention Specialist, points out that last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S.

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CLEANING UP THE MESS -- Broken Arrow Mayor Richard Carter (left) gets a tour from Jerry Gates of the Lynn Lane Water Treatment Plant.

Little-Known Employee Group Keeps Residents Feeling Flushed

By Mayor Richard Carter

Like many of us, I suspect, I never gave much thought to everyday actions such as flushing the toilet, running the garbage disposal, or pulling the plug on a tub of water after a hot bath. But, all that water (and other stuff) has to go somewhere, and it has to be disposed of properly. So this month I decided to find out where it goes, what the system is in Broken Arrow, and who operates it.

My first contact was Paul Rhodes, supervisor of the Utilities Department, a 32-year employee of the City. Paul manages both fresh water and wastewater areas, but today I was most interested in wastewater. "The Lynn Lane Treatment Plant has six employees," he said, "and another six are assigned to maintenance of City lines, with four others from fresh water assigned as needed for construction."

"Developers install the lines within new subdivisions," he continued, "then they are dedicated to the City, and we pick up maintenance responsibility. There are over five hundred (500) miles of wastewater (sewer) lines in the City that are 8 inches in diameter or larger, ranging up to 54 inches, and many times that length of smaller lines. We also maintain 27 lift stations around the city, which pump wastewater on when gravity flow is not possible."

Rhodes said that the Lynn Lane plant has an inflow of about 2.9 million gallons a day, or just over one billion gallons a year. From that, in 2005, 839.6 dry metric tons, or about 1.85 million pounds of sludge was sent off to the landfill. And folks, that is less than 1/2 of Broken Arrow's usage. Another 4.5 million gallons of liquid per day goes to the Haikey Creek plant, which is a joint operation with the City of Tulsa, located at the far south end of Garnett Road. That is a lot of flushes!

Next, I journeyed to the Lynn Lane facility, first meeting plant manager Jerry Gates. Jerry came to Broken Arrow in 1993 as an employee of OMI, the contract operator of the plant at that time, and when the City took over operations in 2002 he became a City employee. He's joined at the Lynn Lane plant by Lauren Wilson handling Industrial Pre-Treatment; Dave Brown, a 17-year veteran in the testing lab; mechanic Shannon McKee; equipment operator James Cargola; and driver Rick Archer. All these folks cross-train and actually can perform multiple duties.

From the office building, computers, sensors and alarms monitor the entire facility, giving Jerry readings on chemical bacterial makeup of the wastewater as it goes through treatment and discharge. Testing is done daily to ensure proper treatment and safety. Then we took a walk around the plant.

At the east end, wastewater comes in from all over eastern Broken Arrow. It is immediately injected with ferrous chloride and/or bioxide to reduce odors, then it passes through a bar screen to remove floating solids, rags, etc. By the way, my mind's picture of wastewater was wrong...it is about 99% water, with a very small percentage of solids.

From there, the liquid goes through a grit chamber to remove sand, gravel, and other particles, then to an aeration basin where friendly bacteria actually eat the organic solids. On to a clarifier basin where remaining solids settle out, and then the

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New Era in Youth Football Set to Start at Nienhuis

The City of Broken Arrow, with the backing of its citizens, has long supported youth sports in the community. First there were the baseball fields at Indian Springs, and the small complex for girls' softball at Central Park. There were the soccer fields at Indian Springs and the nationally-recognized softball complex at Arrowhead.

This August will begin a new era in youth sports at the Nienhuis Youth Football complex is opened to both tackle and flag programs.

Once again with direction from citizen bond issue committees and support at the polls, youth sports facilities in Broken Arrow continue to be among the best in Oklahoma. There are four lighted football fields, with bleachers and a common concession area at Nienhuis Park set to open arms to the tackle football program of the BA Youth Football Association. In addition there are several fields for flag football in the same area of the park, with plenty of parking.

Construction is underway at Nienhuis on a new gymnasium and a new swimming facility, and plans are being made for a City SkatePark in the same area.

DIGGING FOR WATER... City and community officials turn the dirt during official groundbreaking ceremonies for the aquatic center being constructed at Nienhuis Park. It will be open next spring, as facilities continue to be added at the site.



Fire Department Celebrating 100 Years of Service

The city of Broken Arrow celebrated its 100th birthday four years ago. Now it's time for the City of Broken Arrow Fire Department to toot its horn, flash a few lights and even sound a siren or two in honor of its Centennial Celebration.

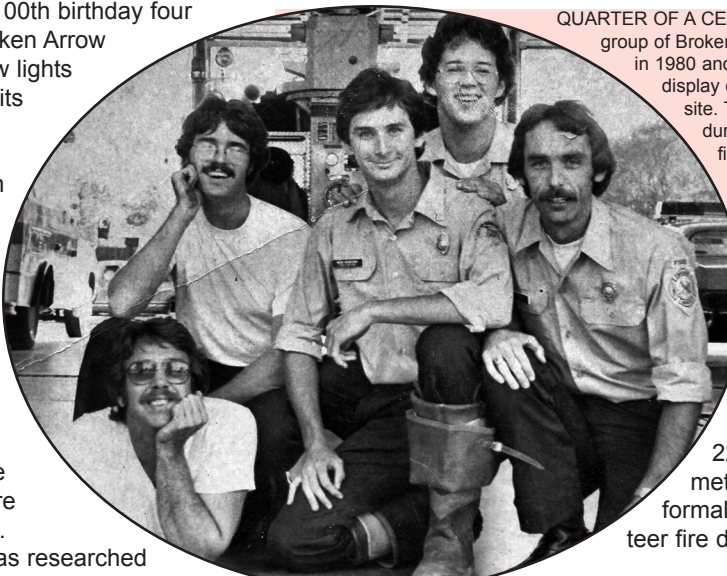
While the celebration won't be limited to the official Centennial Anniversary program July 25, that night will certainly be one of the highlights of the year for a department which was created in June of 1906.

That program will begin at 7 p.m. at The Broken Arrow Assembly Church, 200 E. Broadway. It will begin with the presentation of colors by the BAFD Honor Guard and the Westminster Fife and Bugle Band from the Oklahoma City Fire Department. Current Chief Dennis McIntire will welcome guests and special dignitaries, and past Fire Chiefs and other guests will be recognized.

Much of the history of the department was researched by Roberta Parker of the Daily Ledger newspaper, through the BA Historical Society and many, many old newspaper pages.

The Fire department of Broken Arrow began as a bucket brigade for the Indian Territory, Broken Arrow, in 1902. In the early days of the town, Broken Arrowans showed up with pots, pans, buckets and carried water from town wells to extinguish fires.

By 1904, a better water supply was available from a big well at the Brader & Sons public barnyard where a 125-gallon barrel was kept filled. The bucket brigade had



QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO...This photo of a group of Broken Arrow firefighters was taken in 1980 and is one of many photos on display on the City's TV24 and web site. The photos will also be shown during a public celebration of the first 100 years of the BA Fire Department July 25 at the Assembly of God Church downtown.

served its purpose by 1906. The city purchased a horse-drawn fire wagon. According to the Broken Arrow Democrat, dated June 22, 1906, the city council met on June 15, 1906 to formally organize the volunteer fire department.

Backwater Devices Avoid Messsy Problems, Fines

Owners of buildings served by the sanitary sewer system of Broken Arrow can avoid some messy, foul-smelling problems and some stiff fines by being sure they have a backwater device installed. Section 24-303 of the Broken Arrow Code provides the following: "In all instances in which the lowest floor of a building which is served by a sanitary sewer is less than one (1) foot in elevation above the upstream manhole rim of the same sanitary sewer, **the owner of the building shall install a backwater device near the building**, in a meter can, or in any other enclosure approved by the City, with all working parts readily accessible for service and repairs. Installation of these devices and all maintenance thereon shall be at the expense of the property owner."

Failure to meet the conditions of the ordinance could result in fines not to exceed \$200, plus court costs. In any event, non-compliance effectively exempts the City from all liability in the event of a sewer backup.

Another section of the Code (24-14) makes it unlawful for any person to disturb, cover or otherwise interfere with property under control of the municipal water system. Citizens may not cover meter boxes, manholes or fire hydrants with dirt, vegetation, concrete, vehicles or any other obstruction. There is also a fine not to exceed \$200, plus court costs, for each day the violation exists.

Community Calendar

Each Saturday through August -- Broken Arrow Farmers Market, 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the parking lot at 1400 S. Main, by the Family Aquatic Center. Vendors offer a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, cheeses, breads, arts and crafts, etc. For information call Sandee Jensen at 251-5475.

July 18 -- "Let's Talk, BA" forum for Ward Three. Open to all citizens of Broken Arrow. Starts at 7 p.m. at the Broken Arrow South Library.

July 19 -- Drums of Summer competition at BA High School's Memorial Stadium. Starts at 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 1 -- Oklahoma Caring Van will be at BA Neighbors from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to administer free immunization for children 18 and under. A parent or legal guardian must accompany the child(ren) receiving the immunizations. Current records are also required.

Aug. 4-5 -- Friends of Broken Arrow Neighbors Book Fair, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 315 W. College.

Aug. 19 -- Chamber of Commerce Fall Expo 06, at the Community Center in Central Park, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

'Night Out'.....

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territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, over 34 million people participated in NNO 2005.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT is designed to: Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Along with the traditional display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils, cities, towns and neighborhoods 'celebrate' NNO with a variety of events and activities such as block parties, cookouts, visits from local police departments, parades, flashlight walks, and contests.

If you would like to register to participate in this year's National Night Out, call Lisa Ford, Crime Prevention Specialist, Broken Arrow Police Department at 451-8312 or e-mail lford@brokenarrowok.gov. To request a patrol car, fire truck or to have your street blocked off for your block party call Lisa Ford 451-8213 or fill out the on line registration form at www.bapolice.org (click on the prevention tab and then block party).

Wastewater....

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water is disinfected with chlorine. But, we can't release heavily chlorinated water into the environment, so the chlorine then is removed with sodium bisulfide.

After the clarifier, the sludge that has settled out is pumped to aerobic sludge holding tanks, and then to a belt press building where polymer is mixed in and the remaining water pressed out. The sludge goes to disposal trucks, and the water from it goes back to the start of the process to be retreated before release.

Intense effort and expense is expended to keep odors at a minimum and properly treat the wastewater, and those will continue. A \$15 million upgrade is being engineered right now, with construction planned to begin next year on two new screw pumps, new sludge holding tanks, a new belt filter press, and a new clarifier, as well as new oxidation ditches. All these improvements will add to capacity for the future, and improve odor control.

Last word, from both Rhodes and Gates: "Please don't dump kitchen grease down your drain. It is the number one problem in sewer systems, solidifying and clogging up lines downstream." We have also had line stoppages from people removing manhole covers and dumping bricks, tree limbs, grass clippings, firewood, and other items into the lines. The most unusual was a 400-pound calf that had died and was disposed of in a sewer manhole.

The jobs these folks do may not be at the top of the "glamorous occupation" list, but without them, life in a city would not only be unpleasant, but probably impossible.



NEW ENTRANCE FOR UTILITIES -- City Utility customers may now use this new entrance to the Utilities Department, located on the south end of City Hall at 116 E. Dallas. There is a special parking area for handicapped and a special ramp for wheelchairs. Parking is available in a City lot across the street. The City's One-Stop Center for permits, licenses, development, etc., is located on the north end of City Hall.